

effort to meet any potential response requirements outstanding and due in the above captioned matter.

Please amend the application as follows: IN THE CLAIMS:

**MARKED-UP COPY OF THE CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) Protective circuit for electronic components ~~, in particular driver modules,~~ with a first protective diode disposed in ~~[[the]]~~ a feed line (2) to ~~[[the]]~~ a general supply line (5) for ~~[[the]]~~ a lower disposed supply potential (GND) in case of proper polarity of ~~[[the]]~~ a supply voltage in forward direction, characterized in that

~~[[a]]~~ the first protective diode (D1) leading with its cathode to the lower disposed supply potential (GND) is disposed in the feed line (3) for circuit parts (A1) predisposed to ~~[[the]]~~ a module (B1) and fed by the lower disposed supply potential (GND), and

a second protective diode (D2) leading with its cathode to the lower disposed supply potential (GND) is disposed in the supply connection (4) of the module (B1) and fed by the lower disposed supply potential (GND).

2. (currently amended) Protective circuit according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that a common~~ wherein the first protective diode (D1) is common and is furnished in a presence of several modules (B1... B4) and in each case a second protective diode (D21...D24) is coordinated to and connected to each module (B1... B4).

3. (previously presented) Protective circuit according to claim 1, characterized in that the first and second diodes (D1; D2) are substantially identical.

4. (currently amended) A protective circuit for electronic driver modules comprising

a general supply line for the lower disposed supply potential (GND) in case of proper polarity of the supply voltage in forward direction;

a first feed line (2) connected to the general supply line;

~~a protective diode disposed in the first feed line (2) to the general supply line (5);~~

a module (B1);

circuit parts (A1) predisposed to the module (B1);

a second feed line (3) for circuit parts (A1) predisposed to the module (B1);

a first protective diode (D1) having a first cathode and leading with the first cathode to the lower disposed supply potential (GND) and disposed in the second feed line (3) and fed by the lower disposed supply potential (GND); and

a second protective diode (D2) having a second cathode and leading with the second cathode to the lower disposed supply potential (GND) and disposed in the supply connection (4) of the

module (B1) and fed by the lower disposed supply potential (GND).

5. (currently amended) The protective circuit according to claim 4 further comprising  
at least one additional module (B2 .... B4), wherein ~~a common~~ the  
first protective diode (D1) is common and is furnished in a  
presence of several modules (B1... B4) and in each case a second  
protective diode (D21...D24) is coordinated and connected to each  
module (B1... B4).

6. (currently amended) The protective circuit according to  
claim 4 further comprising a load capacitor, wherein an output of  
the module is connected to the ~~neutral-conductor~~ lower disposed  
supply potential (GND) through the load capacitor.

7. (currently amended) The protective circuit according to claim 4 further comprising a load resistor wherein an output of the module is connected to the ~~neutral-conductor~~ lower disposed supply potential (GND) through the load resistor.

8. (currently amended) The protective circuit according to claim 4 further comprising a capacitor disposed between the supply potential and the ~~neutral-conductor~~ lower disposed supply potential (GND).

9. (currently amended) The protective circuit according to claim 4 further comprising a Zener diode disposed between the supply potential and the ~~neutral-conductor~~ lower disposed supply potential (GND).